

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

from us - to you

No Election in Esquesing Township George Currie is Reeve Again

Meeting Criticizes New Home for Aged—Concerned, Over Mounting Tax Rates

Reeve George Currie, Deputy Reeve George Leslie, Councillors Craig Reid, Wilfrid Bird and Walter Linham were all returned to office by acclamation at the nomination meeting held Monday in Stewarttown Hall. Three other nominees, R. N. Brown, C. B. Swackhamer and William Schenk did not allow their names to stand for election.

The three school area seats also went by acclamation. R. H. Hunter and John Bingham being returned and William Dobbie joining the board to replace S. H. Webster, who retired, due to ill health. Willard Britton was also a school board nominee.

Reeve George Currie was the first speaker introduced by chairman I. M. Bennett at the public meeting held after the nominations and he warned taxpayers that unless municipal, provincial and federal governments checked their expenditures, the country would be bogged down with taxes.

"The government departments say if we do this and that we'll get a grant, but don't forget these grants have to come from somewhere, and it is out of our pockets in extra taxes," said the reeve. As reeve in depression years he had headed the township in the toughest times it ever had, he continued, and he didn't want to see the county overloaded with debt where it would be hard to meet if hard times came again.

Mr. Currie pointed out that almost half the county levy of \$102,000 (excluding roads) on the various municipalities was spent in charity and welfare and said if this had to be done there was negligence somewhere. When children's aid expenses are \$21,500 it is a sad reflection on home conditions in Halton, he said.

Oppose New County Home

"I opposed the building of the new home for the aged last year, and I am still opposed to it," said Mr. Currie. The two Esquesing members, after consultation with their council, and the reeve of Nassagaweya had all voted against the plan which will dissolve the present arrangement with Peel whereby a joint home is maintained at Brampton. For forty years this has worked successfully, he said, and an expenditure of \$200,000 for renovating and enlarging according to approved department plans would take care of Halton's old people for many years to come. Increasing government old age pensions tend to make fewer admissions to the home, he pointed out. At one time Halton had 130 inmates, in 1937 ninety and at present about 98. In place of this the new home will cost an estimated \$450,000, which might end up at six or seven hundred thousand and possibly higher operating costs because it is on a small tract of land which will not produce revenue and because a separate maintenance staff will be required.

Ratepayers Voice Opposition

Mr. Currie asked for an expression of opinion from those present as to their feelings and later in the meeting a motion was made by Lt. Col. G. O. Brown and Milton J. Brown that the meeting go on record as being opposed to the new home at the present time and that the township representatives should bring this before county council and make an effort to have the matter held in abeyance. No adverse votes were recorded among the 35 or 40 present.

Beardmore Property Amassed

The reeve explained the annexation situation when Acton had taken over Beardmore Crescent. Esquesing lost \$12,500 in assessed property and a cash settlement of \$2000 was made by Acton for the transfer. However, during the property examination it was found that for 100 years one-third of the Beardmore property had been in Esquesing and had never been assessed, and this was now assessed, so financially the township had ended up further ahead.

ed road work, he said, and although a lot of gravel had been used, much of it had shimmied off. The Ballinacree road was rough because it had been necessary to put a good base down and he could reasonably give assurance that the road would be hard surfaced next year.

In answer to a question about a proposed Highway through Esquesing and Nassagaweya to link up No. 5 sideroad on a route to Galt, Mr. Currie said certain pressure had been put on the Dept. of Highways to have this done. The Minister had said no new work was being undertaken at the present time but that the earliest applications would be given consideration when future work was undertaken.

W. O. Brownridge said that Councillor Reid had promised action on weed spraying before he was elected and wondered if the other four members were opposed as nothing had been done yet. The reeve said it was purely a matter of finance. One spraying would cost two mills and if spraying were attempted gravelling would have to suffer.

Council Lacks Control

Treasurer K. C. Lindsay, who presented the auditor's report, told ratepayers that they shouldn't be too hard on any council because they had actual control over less than 25 per cent of tax money. 12.2 mills of the 52 mill tax rate was requisitioned by the county and 27 mills by school boards, leaving only 12.5 mills for controllable township expenditures.

One \$10,000 payment remains next year on the \$30,000 loan for renovating the township hall, he said.

Leslie Opposes Home

Deputy Reeve George Leslie also expressed opposition to the new Halton Home in his remarks at the meeting. The present building, with improvements would be good for at least fifteen years, he felt, and there is ample room at present. He did not want to be quoted as absolutely against the new home because it has some good points, he continued, but taxation is rising fast and he thought the county should wait until the new equalized assessment is completed before jumping into further expenditures.

Mr. Leslie compared present equalized assessments in the county, in which Esquesing is second only to Trafalgar in total.

Weed Spraying Difficult

Answering Mr. Brownridge's question, Councillor Craig Reid said that the difficulty was that one spraying was not adequate to eradicate both chinch and wild carrot as they matured at different times. If one spray would do the job he would favour it, but he could not recommend going over the 130 miles of township roads two or three times a year.

"I don't like to see taxes soaring any more than anyone else," said Mr. Reid, "for it is the younger farmers like myself who are going to be burdened with paying them." He thought school costs had risen all out of proportion and yet thought rural pupils were entitled to as good an education as those in urban centres.

Compares Past Taxes

Councillor Wilfrid Bird compared present taxes with those of ten years ago and said that last year he had paid almost double those of 1939. His assessment had been raised somewhat, but still this meant the average taxes had almost doubled. The biggest increase he said, was in education, area schools taking ten mills and other schools averaging 8 mills. At last year's nomination meeting he had recommended a \$3 fox bounty and this had been passed early in the year, but was later taken over by the county which pays a \$5 bounty.

Wants Better Road

C. B. Swackhamer said that his duties as Acton Fair secretary precluded any notion of him running for township office. He pointed out that the township boundary road between Esquesing and Erin was in bad condition and asked that action be taken next year to have this fixed. He had often wondered,

he said, why the ratepayers had not been consulted when Esquesing joined the High School district. He thought it was a fine thing but wondered where the costs would stop. He felt assessments were very unequal. A suburban property he knew about was assessed for \$200 and rented for a yearly figure of that with taxes of \$28 and the owner valued it at \$10,000. Many farms paid far more but wouldn't sell for any more money.

Brown Against Subsidies

R. N. Brown, a former councillor, who declined his nomination, said he didn't agree with subsidies and thought prices should find their own level. Someone has to have the guts to go to county council, he continued, and tell the educationists, where we're at regarding education, as we are going to extremes.

"I pay \$152 in my taxes for education," said Mr. Brown. "What have we got at the Glen for \$67,000? The department says it must be built according to certain specifications or we get no grant. I'm in favour of improvements but we don't have to go to extremes."

Want School Adjustment

Reeve Currie spoke again and criticized the sharing of high school costs by assessment. Esquesing pays 51 per cent and next year will pay about 45 per cent when Georgetown enters the district, but with another school to maintain will be paying even more in cash. He will take it on himself, he said, to ask the proper procedure under the act for adjusting payments on a different basis.

Lt.-Col. G. O. Brown, who is an Esquesing representative on the school board, also voiced his protest about Esquesing's unequal share of costs. Township pupils represent about 30 per cent of the enrollment and 33 per cent would be a much fairer payment, he believes. The board meets 12 times per year and spends 95 per cent of its time in passing accounts, said Col. Brown. It has very little control over salaries or the type of building to be erected. He had had something to do with having the idea dropped for a single school at Speyside, and his plan was to make slow progress towards the point of choosing when and where a central school will be built.

He suggested that the township representatives give plain facts to the county council and see if an adjustment in payments could be made. The alternative to this would be to withdraw from the district. No pupils would be deprived of their education if this were done, he said, and it might be better to provide transportation and shut pupils to school, rather than between three schools.

"If we can't get a reduction I favour getting out of the district," concluded Col. Brown.

Mrs. Alfred Sykes Bereft of Mother

Following an illness of three weeks, Mrs. Walter Thomas Foreman died on December 19th at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Alfred Sykes, Georgetown. Formerly Mary Edna Mead, she was born at Trowbridge 59 years ago, later living in Listowel and Brampton and since 1939 in Snelgrove. She is survived by seven daughters and three sons, Mrs. Stan Burns (Evelyn), Mrs. Alfred Sykes (Alma), Mrs. Wesley Wright (Ester), Mrs. Gordon Brooks (Rose), Mrs. John Elston (Leila), Mrs. Dan Morden (Doris), Mary, Thomas, Clifford and Donald.

The funeral service was held last Wednesday from the funeral home of the Brampton Funeral Service and was conducted by Rev. R. H. N. Davidson. Pallbearers were six sons-in-law, Messrs. Sykes, Burns, Wright, Brooks, Elston and Morden. Interment was made in Brampton Cemetery.

THE WEATHER

Mr. Editor: The high temperature and the amount of rain shown on this week's summary makes us think it is far from being midwinter. Just imagine if the rain had been snow, it would have amounted to about 2 feet, and would surely then have been a white Christmas.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Date	Max.	Min.	Rain
Dec. 19	37	33	
Dec. 20	49	32	.92
Dec. 21	53	35	.42
Dec. 22	57	40	.82
Dec. 23	30	24	
Dec. 24	30	24	
Dec. 25	42	13	.16
Average	42.57	28.71	2.32

Education Valuable: Hunter

R. H. Hunter, who later was elected by acclamation for another term on the public school area board, said that he was quite willing to step aside for the other nominees if they would accept the position. He said that education was the most valuable asset that any community could have and that while its cost might work a hardship on those who thought they could not afford to pay, he didn't hear protests from men with children in school. Many problems were arising with rapid growth in communities such as Glen Williams and Norval where the old buildings could not take care of the increase.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb McFarlane and family visited with the McGibbons over the Christmas holiday.

Esquesing Township Nominations

Reeve:

GEORGE CURRIE (acclamation)
moved by N. A. Robinson and F. D. Charles

Deputy Reeve:

GEORGE LESLIE (acclamation)
moved by R. H. Hunter and F. D. Charles

Council:

WILFRID BIRD (acclamation)
moved by Ernie Curry and Len Cox
WALTER LINHAM (acclamation)
moved by R. H. Hunter and R. L. Davidson
H. CRAIG REID (acclamation)
moved by Nels Robinson and F. D. Charles
R. N. Brown
moved by C. B. Swackhamer and William Dobbie
William Schenk
moved by Harold Wheeler and Alvin Starret
C. B. Swackhamer
moved by A. Dobbie and John E. Fox

Trustees School Area No. 1:

JOHN BINGHAM
moved by Walter Linham and R. H. Hunter
HARRY HUNTER
moved by Walter Linham and H. Craig Reid
WILLIAM DOBBIE
moved by John E. Fox and R. N. Brown
Willard Britton
moved by R. L. Davidson, and Walter Linham

Christmas Visitors At Home and Away

Mr. and Mrs. William Robinson visited in Menford for the holiday week-end.

Miss Donna Churchill of Inglewood was a visitor in town on Wednesday with Miss Jill Kentner.

Mr. and Mrs. Syd MacKenzie spent Christmas day in Hamilton with Mr. and Mrs. Bob MacKenzie.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Graham and son Don of Burlington spent Christmas day in town with Mr. and Mrs. Ern Thompson.

Mrs. H. Sparling of Toronto was a Christmas visitor with her daughter, Mrs. Albert Livingstone and Mr. Livingstone.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Richardson, Jimmy and Ronald spent Sunday at Arkell with Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Morphet.

Misses Nell and Olive Kennedy spent the Christmas week-end at Clarkson with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Squires and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Vahl and son Teddy were in Toronto for the holiday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Fossey.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce MacKenzie and Paul were in Brantford for Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Cooper.

Mr. Clarence Armstrong, who is employed with Provincial Paper at Thorold, was a visitor in town over the holiday week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. John Malcolm, Gail and Douglas spent the holiday week-end in Toronto with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brady.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hardie, Eugene and Bill were in Weston for Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Robertson.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Noble and daughter Ann Lorraine spent the holiday week-end in Palmerston with Mr. and Mrs. George Storey.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Robinson of Milton spent Christmas day in town with their daughter, Mrs. Cecil Davidson and Mr. Davidson.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McClintock and daughter Mary were here from Grand Valley for Christmas Day with her mother, Mrs. William Long.

Guests with Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hawes for Christmas were her mother, Mrs. O. Fielding and her sister, Miss Margaret Fielding of Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Benner and daughter Helen motored to Walkerville for the Christmas holiday to visit with her father, Mr. F. L. Patterson.

Holiday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Peters included Mrs. W. T. Campbell, Mrs. C. L. Easton and Barbara, Mrs. Alice Greedy and son Edwin, all of Toronto.

Holiday guests with Mr. and Mrs. H. Hurley included Mrs. D. Perry, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hurley and Georgina and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Clarke and Jimmy of Toronto.

Mrs. Margaret Joyce of Toronto was a holiday guest with her brother, Mr. Dan Livingstone and Mrs. Livingstone at their home on George Street.

Christmas visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Whitmee included Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Whitmee and son Paul of Collingwood and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Merritt and son Paul of Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. James Cave of Detroit, Michigan, and Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Cave and Jimmie of Toronto spent Christmas with their mother, Mrs. T. R. Cave and with Mr. and Mrs. Ross Thompson.

Christmas visitors with Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Faram included Mr. and Mrs. William Faram and daughter Mary Ann of St. Catharines; Miss Barbara Faram and Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Peterkin of Toronto.

Out of town guests at a family dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Richardson on Monday included Mr. and Mrs. Harold Richardson, Bruce and Kenneth and Miss A. E. Richardson of Pickering.

Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Bradbury and Sharon spent Christmas with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Wilfrid Bradbury at Walpole Island where Mr. Bradbury is rector of the Anglican Church and continued on to Windsor to spend a day with relatives there.

Mrs. Charles Tinsley of Toronto was a Christmas visitor with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Renwick at their home on Victoria Crescent.

Pte. Leonard Tennant who is stationed at Chilliwack, B.C., is home for a month's furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Tennant.

Spending the holiday week-end in Toledo, Ohio, with Mr. and Mrs. George Milliere were Mr. and Mrs. W. Milliere of Limehouse, Mr. and Mrs. W. Milliere, William Milliere, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Spence McKinnon.

Visiting with relatives in town for the holiday week-end were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hoare, Mrs. Elleen Parkinson and son Paul of Oshawa. Mrs. Harvey Bradley, who had been visiting for three weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Bradley returned to Oshawa with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed McNelly and Miss Sarah Edwards of Toronto and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Fricker and children of Dixie and Miss Joan White of Acton were Christmas guests with Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Tyers.

Guests at a family holiday dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kentner included Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Macaulay, Port Dover; Miss Mary Macaulay and Mr. Jack Fearn, Toronto; Mrs. Will Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Maskell, Milton; Mr. and Mrs. Vern Cole and son David, Guelph.

A family party on Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whitmee included Mr. and Mrs. J. Switzer, Fred and Arnold Switzer, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Immond and Ruth and Mr. Joe Auld of Norval, and Mrs. James Bloor and children and Mrs. James Bloor, Sr. of Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fisher and children of Georgetown and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Brown and children of Limehouse.

It was a double celebration at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Leslie, Durham Street, when members of the family gathered for Christmas dinner and to wish happy birthday to Mr. Leslie who celebrated his 81st birthday that day. Those present included Miss Elizabeth Leslie of New York City, Miss Myrtle Leslie of Toronto, Miss Sadie Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Leslie and family and Mr. and Mrs. Percy Leslie and family.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

The Christmas morning worship in St. John's United Church was conducted by the minister Rev. John M. Smith. The Christmas story was read from the Gospels of St. Luke, and St. Matthew. The message was entitled "Mine Eyes Have Seen the King" and was a plea for Christians to see Christ as the central fact of Christmas — The Lord of lords and King of kings. Special Christmas music was provided by the choir under the leadership of Mr. N. Laird and by the Junior Choir under the leadership of Miss Ruth Evans. The theme of the service was "Break Forth, O Beautiful Heavenly Light" and "The First Christmas Morn" were sung by the choir. The Junior and Senior choirs united in the singing of "Lullaby, Thou Little Tiny Child" and the Junior Choir sang a number entitled "The Angels."

The following were welcomed into the full membership of St. John's — Mr. and Mrs. N. Given by transfer from Delisle United Church, Delisle, Sask.; Mr. and Mrs. A. Watson by transfer from Rockwood United Church; Mrs. N. Nelson by baptism and Mrs. J. F. Evans by transfer from Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church.

The evening worship was in the form of a Candle Light Service and was prepared by the CGIT and the Junior Choir. Madeline C. Bush, M. Armann, P. Gribbens, and C. Denham conducted the worship assisted by Miss June Lusk, Isabel Sheffington, Leone Conn, Gladys Cole, Betty Mudia, Ruth Baldwin, and Joyce Denham. Lois Denham sang the hymn "Away in the Manger." Rev. John M. Smith spoke briefly urging a greater interest in the CGIT program which provides the means for a fourfold development of life.